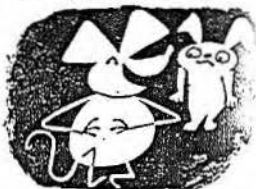


Boobular



*sex*love*bondage*games*crushes*
 **a+toos*the sexy 70's*boobie*

Introduction

sometimes we all have to go through periods of letting go. whether it be a friend or a relationship or old memories or old stuff. it seems that i have been going through one of those times lately. i'm in some cycle of change. making room for new things in my life



Yum
Yum
Yum
so i have to get rid of some old things, ya know. i was laying in bed last night thinking about this big box of old notes and letters i'd kept forever. about 4 years ago i threw all that stuff away. it was really hard because those things were so sentimental to me, but that stuff was all a part of my past and keeping it would mean i wasn't

moving on, in a way. i did keep some of it though. i started thinking last night that those letters and stuff really aren't gone. they are still on this planet, probably buried deep down in some landfill with somebody else's old stuff. that's pretty weird, huh. it's so hard to

let go of things in the past though because those things mold us into who we are today. i started out intending this to be

a fun and silly all-sex issue, but somehow a few old memories got thrown in the mix too. i hope you enjoy it though and i have no idea what #3 will be about yet. guess you and i will just hafta wait and see...

love, THAMI

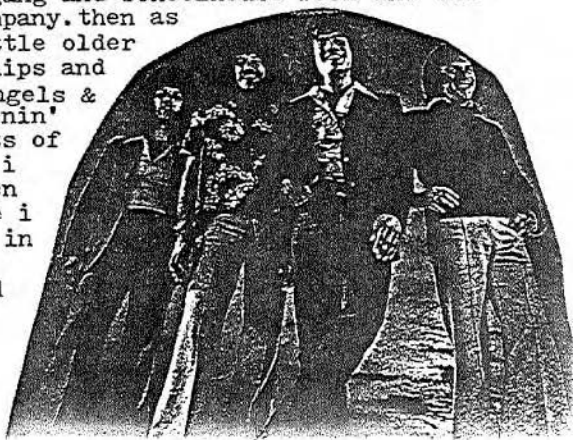
p.s. whenever there's an ending, there's a new beginning...

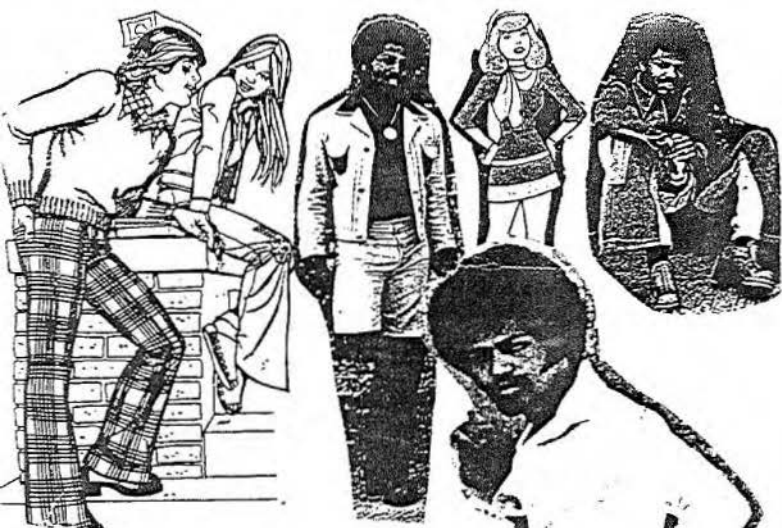




mmm, mmm...
those oh-so sexy
70's

isn't it funny how alot of us gen X'rs are getting into the whole retro thing. i've been into thrift shopping and wearing crazy polyester clothes and stuff since i was about 14 and it just amazes me how trendy that stuff is now.it's nearly impossible to find any super funky stuff anymore unless you pay the \$\$\$ to go to a specialty vintage shop.it's so sad. maybe people are getting into it because there's nothing new anymore.maybe it's because we struggle so hard to be unique and thrift clothes are one of a kind.maybe it's just because back in the 70's we were kids and worry free.all we did was play and ride our bikes with banana seats and really tall handle bars.we watched scooby doo and the bloodhound gang and schoolhouse rock and the electric company.then as we got a little older there was chips and charlie's angels & what's happenin' and the facts of life.i wish i could've been the same age i am now back in the 70's so that i could go disco dancing.





if i ever got a time machine,
i'd go back to 1977 and see WAR
live in L.A. or go disco dancing
in new york. i'd probably see
the germs or the clash or the
buzzcocks if i went back to 1979.
the 70's had so much going on.
there was alot that was new. after
all these years the people that
were really my age then usually
look back at the fashions and
laugh. i guess alot of the
styles were pretty ugly and
crazy, but that's what makes
'em so cool! people also seem-
ed so much less repressed
sexually then. all the girls
wore tight shirts and neat
make-up and feathered their
hair. guys wore those skin
tight polyester pants and
afros and sideburns-SEXXY!
so much music then was
about picking up people
and having one night stand.
i guess your main concern



was probably getting pregnant or herpes. they didn't have to worry about all this aids crap.

maybe being into the 70's is my own little fantasy. we are nearly to the year 2000 now, and i don't know about you, but that sounds scary to me. we're entering the 00's. zeros. the nothings.

YUK! so what are we gonna do when it's time to party like it's 1999? i'll probably stay inside. can you imagine what december 31st 1999 will be like at midnight? WOW! yep, i'll stay at home, maybe invite a couple of friends over and listen to donna summer records.



ANNA

i met anna at my friend trevor's house last spring. she was so beautiful and she had on a shirt that said GENDER IS BESIDE THE POINT on it. i was instantly totally attracted to her. i mean, i've always been attracted to girls and stuff, but there was something different about anna. she was actually dating trevor at the time, but they had a pretty casual relationship. anyhow, that night me and her and trevor and his roommate just sat around listening to music and watching movies, and i ended up staying over cuz they were kind of drunk and didn't want to drive and all. trevor's room was basically the living room so i slept on the couch while anna and trevor were sleeping in his bed right next to me.

i was so damned tired, but couldn't fall asleep at all. i noticed that anna kept moving around a lot too and i was hoping she'd wake up and talk to me. then she finally said "are you awake too?" and i was so happy. she crawled out of bed with trevor - completely naked and came over to lay under the covers with me! i was so nervous because i'd never been so close to a girl like that before, ya know. i was so attracted to her that i didn't know what to do or say. we ended up snuggling and talking all night. she told me she liked me too. the next day after i'd been home for a while, i couldn't stop thinking about her, so i called trevor and got her phone number. i didn't really know what to say. all i knew was if i didn't see her that night i'd probably burst! finally i decided to just call her up and ask her over for dinner. she was happy i called and did end up coming over. i made us spaghetti. they say you're not supposed to eat spaghetti on the first date, but it seems like i've had spaghetti almost every first date i've ever had! anyway...

from that night on, we were inseperable. she stayed the night at my house almost every night, but we never kissed or anything- we just snuggled and stuff. i would go crazy laying next to her because i wanted to kiss her SO BAD! she was so pretty. anna is one of those girls that everybody has a crush on. she's so funny and so cool and so beautiful. she was only 15 when we were hanging out though. i gave her my old i.d. so that she could go out with me. we would always talk about the girls and boys that we thought were cute and did that silly girl stuff like going to the bathroom together and everything. she was my best friend, but at the same time we had crushes on each other. i was always waiting for her to make the first big move on me because she had been with other girls before and i hadn't. then one night when we were laying in my bed i couldn't take it anymore and finally put the moves on her. she was really fun to kiss and her body was so soft and curvy- not like a boys. we never ended up doing more than just making out that one time though. later that summer i got in a relationship with a boy and we got in a silly fight and ended up drifting apart. i've barely talked to her in the past year because she didn't have a phone. then a few weeks ago i saw her working at the little store right across the street from where i work! i was so happy to see her! i've missed her SO MUCH! i called her and told her to come across the street to talk to me when she got off work and stuff. so she did come talk to me for a few minutes, but i don't think she was as excited to see me as i was to see her. i gave her my phone number but she hasn't called me. i know that she has lots of other friends and probably doesn't realise how much i still care about her. i think that i was in love with her.

anna, i miss you...

BEDTIME



Top 10 Un-Sexy Things

1) dumb slutty girls that try to dance all sexy on the stage at First Ave. especially when they dance with another girl and feel all over each other so that all the dumb guys will gawk at them.

2) drunk frat boys that fuck with me when i'm out by myself dancing.

3) those LEVER 2000 ads on T.V. with the naked familys

touching each other and wrestling and stuff-YUK!!!

4) this greeting card at my work that has a picture of a really ugly fat lady with 5 or 6 kids climbing all over her boobs. (believe me, it's gross)

5) those big veiny muscular guys that pose in all of the muscle and fitness magazines.

6) those big veiny muscular bodybuilder women with skimpy bikinis on with no boobs in all of those muscle and fitness magazines (remember Thanksgiving, Kate and Amy? HA-HA!!)

7) going to the gynecologist

8) that "i'm too sexy" song

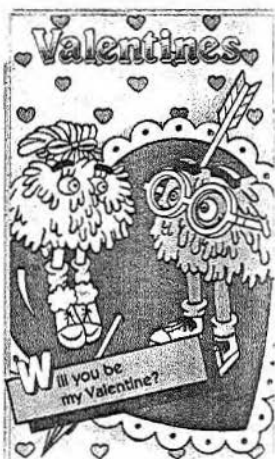
9) when you're making-out with someone and you get a hair in your mouth and you keep passing back and forth to each other because you're too embarrassed to just try to get it out of your mouth

10) when you see creepy X-boyfriends or girlfriends and you don't wanna talk to them, but you do anyway and get the heebie-jeebies later thinking "i can't believe i had sex with him/her?!?!"



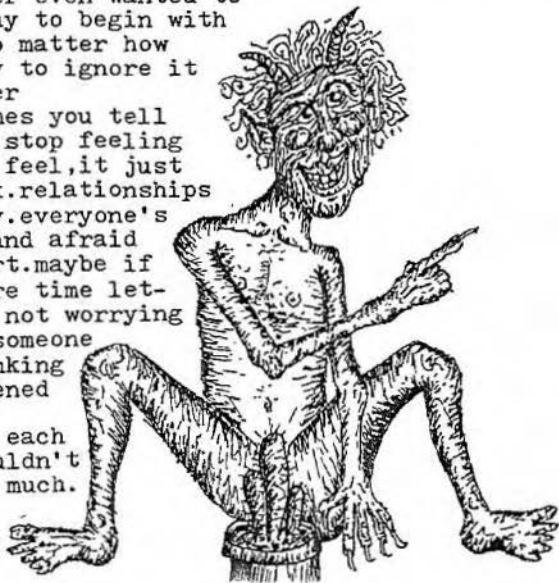
Top 10 SEXY things

- 1) BJORK! BJORK! BJORK! BJORK!!!
- 2) CHRIS CORNELL!!!!
- 3) thunderstorms and lightning and pouring rain
- 4) flirting
- 5) knowing what someone is thinking just by looking them in the eyes
- 6) talk show hosts-ROLONDA, CONAN O'BRIAN, and most of all DAVID LETTERMAN. (well, i think that they're sexy, but maybe i'm just weird or something)
- 7) my cat SID. no, i'm not into bestiality or something sick like that, he's just sexy O.K.!!
(you can even ask my friend nikole because she thinks so too. i guess you'd just hafta know him)
- 8) guys with afro's... ooh baby!!!
- 9) getting tattoos and strategically placed body piercings by really sexy people and flirting and all that good fun stuff
- 10) the PLAYBOY with Drew Barrymore in it. especially that picture of her with her feet up on a desk and she's holding a big wrench. when you think about it everything that has anything with DREW BARRYMORE in it is sexy. with the exception of E.T. ha-ha! but she really is a hot tamale, don't you think? so.. yeah... now i'm just babbling to fill up the rest of this page. great weather we're having lately, huh? how 'bout them DODGER'S????

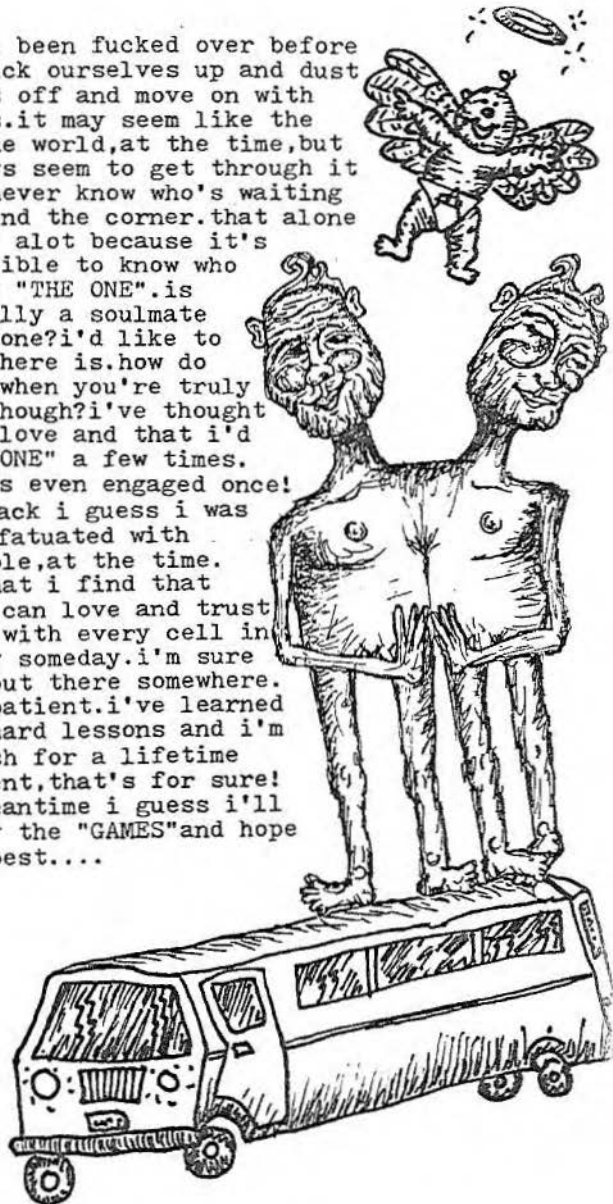


Games suck!

why are games such a huge part of relationships? everyone knows how stupid it is to play these so called "GAMES", yet we all still feel compelled to do it, don't we? no matter how good your intentions are and how badly you want to be honest with someone you care about, it usually just doesn't seem to ever work out the way you've planned. you sit at home alone listening to depressing music that fits everything just right and think of exactly what you want to say to this person, then when you finally get the balls to call up and tell this person how you feel and tell them everything you've been going so crazy about... BAM! everything changes, ya know? you hear that person's voice and you feel all stupid and are too scared to put yourself and your emotions out there. out in the open just waiting for someone to run 'em over. we miss out on so many things in life because we're so afraid of rejection. but you never even wanted to feel this way to begin with right? but no matter how much you try to ignore it and no matter how many times you tell yourself to stop feeling the way you feel, it just doesn't work. relationships are so scary. everyone's vulnerable and afraid of being hurt. maybe if we spent more time letting go and not worrying about what someone else is thinking and just opened up and were honest with each other we wouldn't get hurt as much.



we've all been fucked over before
but we pick ourselves up and dust
ourselves off and move on with
our lives.it may seem like the
end of the world,at the time,but
you always seem to get through it
O.K.you never know who's waiting
just around the corner.that alone
scares me alot because it's
so impossible to know who
is really "THE ONE".is
there really a soulmate
for everyone?i'd like to
believe there is.how do
you know when you're truly
in love,though?i've thought
i was in love and that i'd
met "THE ONE" a few times.
hell,i was even engaged once!
looking back i guess i was
nearly infatuated with
those people,at the time.
i hope that i find that
person i can love and trust
and know with every cell in
my body someday.i'm sure
they're out there somewhere.
but i'm patient.i've learned
alot of hard lessons and i'm
in no rush for a lifetime
committment,that's for sure!
in the meantime i guess i'll
just play the "GAMES"and hope
for the best....



Bondage Basics

by Michelle

bondage.whips.chains.leather.dominance and submission.some people are turned on by this shit. i am one of those people.before i talk about the fun stuff,i must mention some important things to consider before practicing any sort of bondage. consent is the most important thing!!the person being restrained must consent to doing so.and the person in power must agree to be respectful of the restrained person.trust is very important too. never ever let yourself be submissive to someone you don't trust.if you trust your own instincts and the other person,then it's all good.communication is important too.you've got to be able to talk about what you're gonna do or allow to be done to you.when you've got consent,trust,and communication,then fuckin' go for it!!!

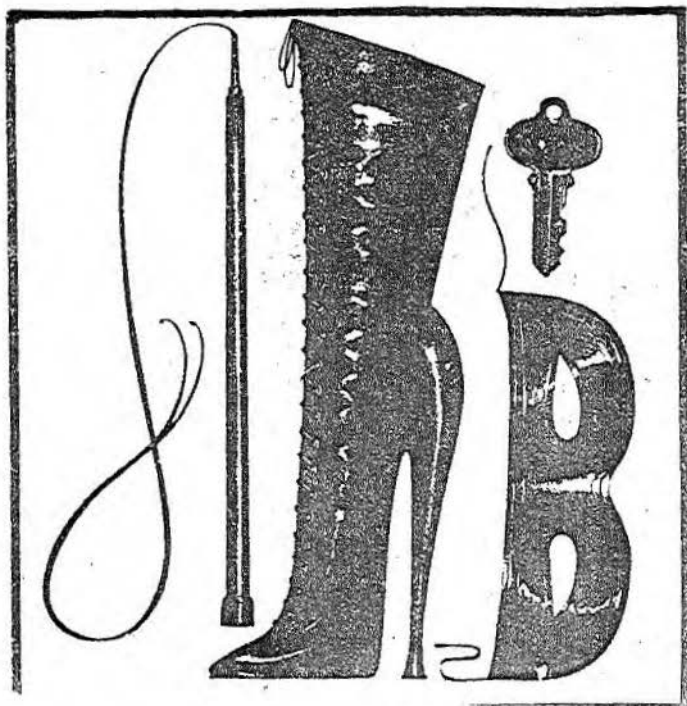
now the fun begins.to practice bondage you must have bondage gear.there is alot of stuff out there-use whatever turns you on.the most basic bondage gear is something that restrains the hands.you can use whatever works-ropes,a tie, handcuffs,whatever you have access to.or,you could get some nice leather cuffs.they are pretty cheap and very basic and practical and fun! real bondage cuffs are better too because they are less painful than other things. then you can enjoy what someone is doing to you without your wrists hurting.collars are another basic cheap bondage item.they look very sexy and you can use them to chain up your slave so they don't



escape.beyond cuffs and collars,there's all kinds of leatherwear,gags,blindfolds,and you can even get furniture made for bondage.get and use whatever turns you on!

the best thing about bondage is that it's a place where you can explore those sick and perverse sexual desires,if you have them. be creative and imaginative,and have a fucking good time!

THANKS FOR THE GOOD INFO MICHELLE!
I'VE NEVER GOTTEN INTO THE WHOLE
BONDAGE THING PERSONALLY,BUT I'M
FOR ALL KINDS OF SEXPLORATION!!!
EVERYONE HAVE FUN AND BE SAFE!!!





amy's favorite band is Motley Crue

I think the thing that sucks
most about sex but can
also be quite humorous
is all the weird
noises that get made
during sex, like tummy
knockin' & floatin' the
wind and weird
slurping noises when
it becomes an oral
thing and even when
it's not an oral
thing (wow) but the
worst is when you're
thinking about it later,
like when you're on the
bus, & you giggle.
e e e w w w .

my friend dmy wrote this 2



Rawk n'
Roll, Amy!!!

GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS

V.I.D. how
ingse you
hity?

okay,so losing my
virginity wasn't ground-
shaking or anything,but
the worst was that i hemorr-
haged all over the place and
freaked the guy out.i was 14.and
every time i had sex after that,i
hemorrhaged and it was a nightmare.
so i tried the gyno,but there was no
cure.but thank jesu mary mother o'christ
that that problem solved itself.so it was a
bloody start to my sex life.and i still get a
little scared that sex might turn out to be a
blood bath.pretty sexy.

i was 16 and the guy was my best
friends boyfriend.i lived in a
small town,so of course the next
day everybody knew all about it
and stared at me all weird at
school.then later on i found out
that apparently i left a blood-
stain on his parents white carpet
but that was really just a rumor,
so i don't actually know if that
was true. or not.

the first girl i had sex with
was terrible in bed.i don't
remember much more than that.

well,it wasn't very exciting.i
got really drunk and my boyfriend
and i went back to my house and
only had sex for like a minute.
it hurt too much and i bled all
over the place.i was 16.





HOW DID YOU LOSE YOUR Virginity?

i lost my virginity twice. the first time was my queer virginity. i was 16 and me and this guy were totally in the closet at the time. we drove out into a field and did it on the hood of the car. we didn't really know what we were doing though because we used vaseline and didn't use condoms. he thought that maybe we weren't gay,

only because we didn't cum at the same time. i lost my straight virginity to my friend. she could never figure out why i didn't want to have sex with her and one night at her house i finally gave in and tried to have sex with her. i was totally turned off and i just closed my eyes and touched the parts of her that were most like a boys and imagined myself kissing my straight best friend that i totally had a crush on. it was pretty awful.

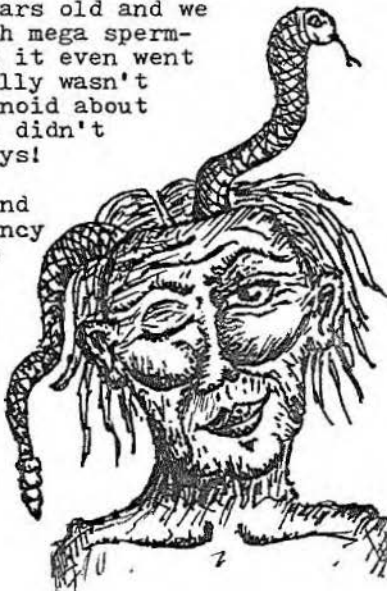
i was 12 and i went over to my best friends house to stay the night. his whole family were nudists, so his older sister was always walking around the house naked and everything. she was like 17 or 18. so anyhow, that night she slipped me a note under the door when we were going to sleep in my friends room. the note said she wanted me to sneak into her room, so i just told my friend i was going out to look for his cat. needless to say, i went to her room and we did it.

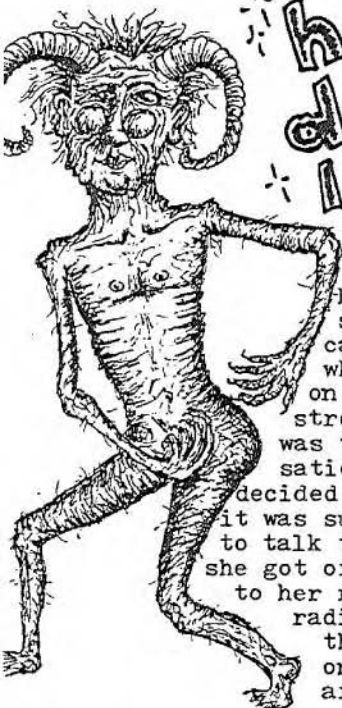
*Virginity
Lose it
Say you
hit you*

i was 12 and the guy was 16.i snuck out of the house and took a cab to his place across town.(he paid for it)his friends dave and dave were both in the room when it happened. one dave was on the couch and the other dave was next to us in the bed.i remember that i had my shoes on the whole time and afterwards he asked me if it had been my first time and when i said "yes" he said "wow!now you'll remember me for the rest of your life!"i saw him several years later cruising in a flourescent pink mini-truck with blue flames on the front...

i lost my virginty on senior prom.i was 18.all i remember was that it hurt really fucking bad and i bled alot and then i never saw the guy again

i was like seventeen years old and we used 2-5 condoms with mega spermicide and i don't think it even went in all the way,but i rilly wasn't ready cuz i was so paranoid about getting pregnant that i didn't get my period for 78 days! finally i told my mom, tearfully,she laughed and bought me a home pregnancy test,which i refused to take.eventually aunt penelope came for a visit.needless to say i didn't really have sex till i was 19 and that's a whole nother ball of earwax.





how you did you lose your virginity

i was at this girls house watching movies and she got a phone call. she came over to the lay-z-boy where i was sitting and sat on my lap and started to stroke me and stuff while she was trying to hold this conversation on the phone. so, then i decided to play with her too and it was super funny watching her try to talk to the person. eventually she got off the phone and we went to her room and we put on the radio and started having sex then my favorite song came on. it was really nice and afterwards we just fell asleep in each others arms.

i used to babysit this lady's kids when i was 17 and sometimes one of her friends would stop by and she'd always totally flirt with me. she was in her late 20's and was an aerobics instructor. she gave me her number and one night i called her at around 2am. she insisted i take a cab over to her place and she paid for it. we got drunk and i just jumped on her. she hadn't had sex in almost a year, so she was really tight. the next day when i woke up there was blood everywhere.

i was 15. my friends girlfriend came over to my house one night. she was 18, i think, and more experienced than me. we did it in my room and then she had her boyfriend pick her up with some other friends of mine. it was very weird.



Crushes



"IF THEY WERE EASY, THEY'D CALL 'EM SOMETHING ELSE"

a quote from sixteen candles...

crushes really suck sometimes, don't they? i mean they're fun and all, but i hate it when i get a huge crush on someone i know i can't have but i think about them and torture myself anyway. i guess everyone falls into that trap every once in a while though sometimes it's nice to just have something to keep your mind off of all the other everyday bullshit too. i like thinking about the people i have crushes on while i'm at work alot. that way the customers don't bug me so much, ya know. but then there's obsession... now that's a whole 'nother ballpark frank. that's bad news. FATAL ATTRACTION comes to mind *yikes* the thing that drives me crazy though is when you truly LIKE someone but you're not quite sure if they like you. you think they do, but you're too chicken to say something to them and it makes you bananas everytime you stand next to them! i have a couple of pretty big crushes right now. one of them is this boy i've known for about a year and a 1/2. he likes me too, but he has a girlfriend that he won't break up with. the other is a girl. she knows i like her, but she has a boy friend too. maybe some day i'll have them.



Pornography & Prostitution

in my opinion there are good and bad aspects of both of these subjects. i strongly believe in CHOICE #1. if you're not into pornography (mags, videos etc.) you just don't buy 'em, right? same goes for prostitution and strip clubs. even though i might not participate in any of these things, i still believe i have the right to do so if i please. but there are definately some underlying issues that do affect our society in negative ways. crime for instance tends to be a big problem. areas where X-rated stores and strip clubs are seem to attract "undesirables". then there is THE issue- women being put on display for primarily mens entertainment. some say that this is degrading and reinforces the idea that men view women as sex objects, or just objects in general. i think that can certainly be true, but a woman's choice to display herself like that is just that- HER CHOICE! just as it is YOUR CHOICE to not do it. freedom to explore and exhibit yourself and your sexuality is very important and if a woman can make money at it, hey, i say more power to her! it's not easy to make a GOOD living these days by conventional means unless you have a college education, and financial aid is not easy to get. (believe me, i know!) alot of women get into the sex industry for the sole purpose of paying for school. prostitution is already illegal in most states, but if you call it "escorting" it's not illegal? whatever!!! you know why? because if we really tried to enforce and censor these things more problems and crime would be created and therefore we'd have more government control in our lives. i don't know about you, but that's something i definately don't want or need!!! sexuality is the most basic and primitive human need and if we try to supress our natural desires we are also trying to change what we ARE! so the bottom line is CHOICE. that's my opinion, whether you like it or not!

TATTOOS

"THE PAIN ? IT'S A VERY EMBRACEABLE PAIN.IT'S ODD.IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE BEING MASSAGED BY MAGIC FINGERS WHILE GETTING SCRATCHED BY A CAT.THE AREA THAT'S BEING WORKED ON IS HOT. ADD TO THAT THE VIBRATIONS OF THE MACHINE AND THE PAIN IS TRANSFORMED INTO A STRANGE SEXUAL SENSATION"

that was a quote from a tattoo book i read a few years ago.i'm sorry i can't remember what book it was.what an awesome quote though!it's SO TRUE!!! (and people wonder why tattoos are so addictive?) i was lucky enough to have *the* JILL JORDAN give me my first tattoo about 5 years ago.even tho she looked tough with her piercings and her stomach tightly cinched into a tiny girdle,she had such a gentle touch.there's just something amazing about female tattooist's.don't get me wrong,males are just as sexy,but in a different way.i must admit that flirting is one of the best parts about getting tattooed.tattoos may cost \$\$\$,but they're so fun and you even get a pretty picture on your body that will last forever.....



NICK from electric dragon-land working on my arm.
call him at 933-2097

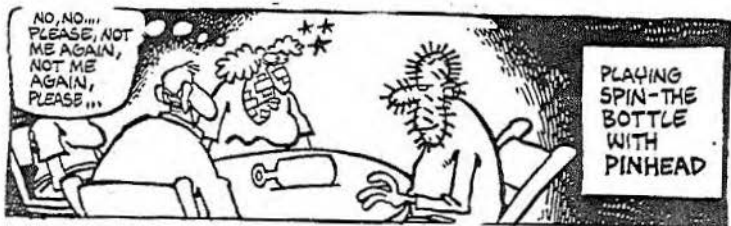
here's KURT from
piercing tool
(in Mpls., MN.)
Omni. he does
729-1475





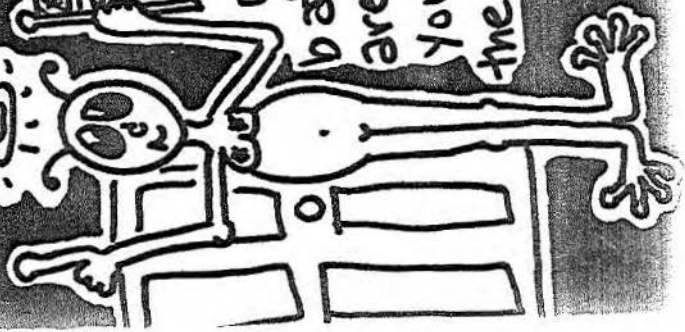
KISSING GAMES

i don't care if i am almost 23 years old,kissing games rule!i love having people over and getting drunk and playing spin the bottle.especially if one of the people is someone you've had a crush on.then you finally get to kiss them in an easy way.it's really great watching your straight male friends get all grossed out when they have to kiss each other.tee-hee.it's also fun to kiss your best friend.remember seven minutes in heaven?you'd have to go in a room or closet and make-out for 7 minutes while all your friends sat outside the door giggling.i like playing life savers too.that's when each person sucks on a life saver and you kiss each other and have to guess what flavor the person had.truth or dare is cool too because not only do you always end up kissing somebody,but you get your friends to tell secrets or do something really embarrassing.so what if it's juvenile?it's so fun!!!so the next time you're at a party and everyone is just standing around,get a game going.kiss your friends.kiss your neighbor.dare someone to run around the block naked or drink out of the toilet or something.be a kid again!kissing is the spice of life,so learn how to cook!



© 1994 by American People

if you're
an American
when you're
outside the
bathroom, what
are you when
you're inside
the bathroom?



SCARS

i had a really hard time deciding whether or not i should write about such a personal issue for me, but i think that it's very important for me to talk about this. i hope that my experience as bad as it was, can at least help someone else.

about four years ago i got involved in what turned out to be a very bad relationship. at first everything was great. "BILL" and i were like best friends and we spent almost every minute together. we were living in a small town in cali-

fornia. neither of us had jobs because the unemployment rate was about 30% where we lived. me and bill were either living at his mom's house or my mom's house all the time. i would babysit for the neighbors sometimes for a little money. all me and bill would do was watch T.V. or go play pool. at first when we'd play it was fun. then i started

getting really good and bill would get furious when i'd beat him. one time he actually hit me and knocked me down...

we desperately wanted to get our own place, and blamed most of our problems on the fact that we hated living with our parents.

i had lived on my own for a couple of years before i met him, but he had never had his own place before. we thought we'd be so happy if we could just be



on our own and stuff. we ended up getting on welfare for a while, just to get his mom off our back. in order to get the welfare though, we had to apply for a certain number of jobs every week. we ended up actually getting jobs because of that. bill was working at burger king and i was working at blockbuster video. we still weren't happy. i got a much better job in the children's dept. of a store at the mall. i even saved up and got a car. bill was once again very jealous. he had a car, but his dad had bought it for him. the idea of me accomplishing something and becoming more independent threatened him. so he decided we were going to move to arizona. then we could get our apartment and really finally be happy. he went out there a couple of weeks before i did, and



got a job where his friend worked. he also found us an apartment. when i got there i ended up getting a job at the same place too. we had to work about 45 minutes from our house and he worked the night shift while i worked in the morning. he'd drive all the way home after his shift and pick me up to drive me all the way back. he'd sleep in the car while i worked. needless to say, it SUCKED! i told him i was quitting and was going to find another job. he freaked and was putting me down and telling me i'd never find another job. i did about a week or two later. a good job too. i started realising how much i missed my independence and how much bill tried to manipulate me all the time. he would call me at work and yell at me for putting him on hold. he'd accuse me of fucking my boss and fucking everybody actually. he'd come into my work and cause huge scenes and yell at me if i wasn't ready to leave as soon as he got there. he was always yelling at me. he'd threaten to leave me. he'd threaten to hit me. he'd throw things at me. one time when i was at my only friends house he

got mad and called me there and told me it was over. he told me to come and get my cat out of the apartment because he was gonna have the landlord come over to inspect the house so he could get out of our lease. (we weren't supposed to have any pets in our building) so my friend drove me over to get my cat and when we got there bill was in the shower. i went in the bedroom and was looking for my cat under the bed, when bill came out of the shower with only a towel on. he grabbed me and socked me in the arm and threw me against the wall. then he grabbed me again and wouldn't let me go. my friend was trying to get him to calm down and let me go. i finally got away and started frantically packing my things and crying my eyes out. it was awful! the only place i had to go was my friends house because i had no family in arizona and no money to go anywhere else. my friend lived in a small mobile home with his mom, sister and brother, so there was no way i could take everything with me. i got my cat and most of my clothes and thats it. i had to leave my stereo and T.V. and a few other things. bill kept calling me at my friends that day and that night. my friends mom was only going to let me stay there for 3 days. i didn't know what i was gonna do. bill wanted me back. i fucking hated him so much, but i had no other choice but to go back to him. when i did he had thrown away most of my things- including my T.V. and stereo. of course he hadn't thrown away my microwave and VCR though, because he didn't have those himself. he also threw away a blanket i'd been knitting for over a year. nothing could replace that. with no T.V. no furniture and only a small crappy radio, my life was as terrible as it could get. i walked to the library and got tons of books. i also walked to a nearby craft store and just buried myself in books and art projects and tried to figure out how i was gonna leave him. he'd write me all these letters while he was at work apologizing to me and saying things like "i only get mad because i love you so much." i wasn't buying his manipulative bullshit anymore, but i let him think i was. he was so edgy and i had to tiptoe around his violent behavior. i got so caught up in keeping him happy that i

started to forget who i was and what MY needs were. i went out to visit my mom and best friend in california for a few days.that trip was my "moment of clarity" i called my friend that had recently moved to minneapolis and he told me he was looking for an apartment.i asked if he needed a roommate and when he said yes,i knew my awful relationship would soon be over.two weeks later i was moving. to a city i'd never been before halfway across the country where i only knew one person and had no money.it was scary,but i was really excited. bill was not pleased.he didn't really get mad at me before i left.he just seemed depressed and he avoided me.i think he really finally knew why i was leaving him and knew he had to let me go. the big moving day came.i got all of the remainder of my things together,put my cat in his carrier and sat on the steps outside with bill waiting for my airport shuttle to arrive.bill was crying, but i wasn't.i was happy.finally! i was doing something for myself and putting my emotions before his.when the shuttle got there i said goodbye and walked away.as the shuttle drove off, i watched bill punch the stucco wall of our apartment and walk inside.

the plane ride was great.i had a window seat,so i watched the miles between me and bill get bigger and bigger.when i arrived in minneapolis the first thing i did was have my friend drive me to the hennepin ave. bridge,right by the old grainbelt sign.i threw the plain gold wedding band that bill had given me almost 2 years before into the mississippi river.i was really free!!!

since i left him a little more than 2 years ago now,i have still been happy.my whole life changed because of bill,and in a weird way i have to thank him for that.i learned so much from him. not only about relationships,but mainly about myself.i do what makes ME happy now and i will never let anyone drag me down and manipulate me ever again.if bill had really loved me,he wouldn't have treated me like shit.sometimes i'll look at pictures of him and me from back then and read those old letters he wrote,and it just reinforces how happy i am to be where i am today!

THE END

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